

Optica Executive Forum

31 March 2025

San Francisco Marriott Marquis
San Francisco, California, USA



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Zayo, SVP Engineering



Adit Narasimha
Astera Labs,
VP Emerging Technologies



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Corning Optical Communications,
VP, COC Technology Development



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Google, VP and GM,
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Chief Development Officer
and Co-Founder



Ashkan Seyedi
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Hong Hou
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Jim Anderson
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Julie Eng
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Lisa Huff
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Mark Filer
Stealth Startup, Area Tech Lead



Michael Hurlston
Lumentum, President and
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Michael Lebby
GenusTechnik Inc., CEO



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Natarajan "Subu" Subrahmanyam
Verition Fund Management,
TMT Portfolio Manager



Tim Doiron
Nokia, Vice President,
Solution Marketing



Tom Williams
Acacia, VP of Marketing



Walid Wakim
Nokia, CTO of Systems

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Executive Forum is Presented By



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Learn more about corporate membership at: <https://www.optica.org/industry>

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Speakers have the option to submit their PDF of their presentation. If submitted, presentations will be available following the event. Post-event materials will be accessible online and attendees will be notified via email with a direct link.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The logo for GoFoton, featuring the word "GoFoton" in a bold, italicized sans-serif font. A green leaf-like shape is positioned above the letter "o" in "Go".The Nokia logo, consisting of the word "NOKIA" in a blue, sans-serif font with wide letter spacing.The logo for celestial AI, with "celestial" in a lowercase, bold, sans-serif font and "AI" in a larger, bold, sans-serif font with a trademark symbol.

Silver Sponsors:

The logo for MRSI MYCRONIC, with "MRSI" in a bold, black, sans-serif font and "MYCRONIC" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it.The logo for Newphotonics, with "New" in orange and "photonics" in black, both in a sans-serif font.The logo for enlightra, featuring a stylized circular icon with three curved lines on the left and the word "enlightra" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. Below it, the tagline "comb laser engines" is written in a smaller, lowercase, sans-serif font.

2025 Executive Forum Planning Committee

Aleksandra Boskovic, Corning, Vice President for Optical Communications

Sean Buckley, Broadband Technology Report and Lightwave Magazine, Editor-in-Chief

Tim Doiron, Nokia, Vice President, Solution Marketing

Mark Filer, Stealth Startup, Area Tech Lead

Lorenzo Ghioni, Cisco, Director Product Management

Lisa Huff, Omdia, Senior Principal Analyst, Optical Components

Michael Lebby, GenusTechnik, CEO

Andrew Lord, BT Group, Senior Manager, Optics and Quantum Research Centre of Excellence

Sanjai Parthasarathi, Coherent, Chief Marketing Officer

Chris Pfistner, Avicena Tech, VP Sales & Marketing

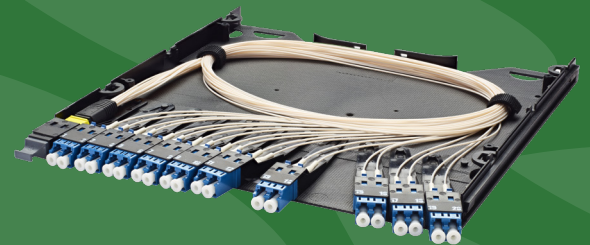
Natarajan "Subu" Subrahmanyam, Verition Fund Management, TMT Portfolio Manager

Tom Williams, Acacia, VP of Marketing

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SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

31 March 2025

7:30 – 08:15 Networking Breakfast

8:15 – 17:35 Program

8:15 – 8:30 Welcome Remarks & Opening Comments

8:30 – 9:15 Keynote

Moderator:

Subu Subrahmanyam, Verition Fund Management

Speaker:

Amin Vahdat, Google

9:15 – 10:10 **Session 1:** Next-Generation Network Infrastructure and Architecture

Description:

In this panel, hyperscalers and network operators will dissect the technical impact of artificial intelligence and decentralization on the current network loads and the future of communication networks. What are the economical drivers for network operators and how are those translated into technical demands in the physical network layer and infrastructure? What standards and QC requirements are the hyperscalers demanding from their supplier to meet?

Moderator:

Aleksandra Boskovic, Corning

Speakers:

Colin Wallace, Microsoft

James Feger, Lumen

Walid Wakim, Nokia

10:15 – 10:35 Networking Break

10:35 – 11:50 Session 2: Status of Photonic-enabled Modules

Description:

AI is driving not only server technology, but everything that connects to the server inside and between data centers. Data center networks are transitioning quickly to 400G and 800G now to support AI applications. To support these networks, optical modules are moving quickly to 800G, and 1.6T adoptions are right around the corner. This panel will discuss technologies used both inside the data center as well as new coherent technologies being developed for connecting data centers.

Moderator:

Lisa Huff, Omdia

Speakers:

Rangchen (Ryan) Yu, TeraHop

Helen Xenos, Ciena

James Zhang, Eoptolink

Julie Eng, Coherent

Tom Williams, Cisco

12:00 – 13:00 Networking Lunch

13:00 – 14:00 Session 3: The Evolution from Copper to Optical - Where is the Line?

Description:

As AI drives rapid evolution in system architectures, connectivity is one of the major challenges in building larger, more efficient compute clusters. Solutions that enable both scale up and scale out are critical to achieving the goal of 1 million xpu clusters. Within connectivity, one of the most important questions to be answered is how far copper can scale and where the transition to optical needs to happen. While it was once assumed that copper would be unable to scale beyond 100g/lane, the industry has come up with creative solutions to extend the life of copper. At the same time the debate continues on when the inevitable transition to optical happens and what the technologies of choice will be. To discuss this topic we have assembled a group of industry leaders that address a broad range of connectivity solutions across copper and optics.

Moderator:

Mark Filer, Stealth Startup

Speakers:

Ryan Latchman, Macom

Loi Nguyen, Marvell

Manish Mehta, Broadcom

Adit Narasimha, Astera Labs

14:00 – 14:30 Networking Break

14:30 – 15:40 Session 4: CEO Panel

Description:

The CEO Panel explores firsthand the diverse perspectives these accomplished CEOs from public companies in the optical communication market as they discuss how they've navigated their organizations through change and uncertainty. Learn about what are the challenges and opportunities ahead and what keeps them awake at night.

Moderator:

Michael Lebby, GenusTechnik

Speakers:

Hong Hou, Semtech

Gary Smith, Ciena

Michael Hurlston, Lumentum

Jim Anderson, Coherent

15:40 – 16:40 Session 5: Photonic Interconnects in AI Clusters

Description:

Optical engines are a cornerstone in the development of robust and scalable AI infrastructure for high-performance computing applications. What are available technologies to facilitate high-speed communication and data exchange among the distributed nodes within an AI cluster? How are these engines addressing the substantial data volumes inherent in AI computations and mitigating latency?

Moderator:

Chris Pfistner, Avicena

Speakers:

Pradeep Sindhu, Microsoft

Ashkan Seyedi, NVIDIA

Drew Alduino, Meta

Andreas Bechtolsheim, Arista

16:40 – 17:30 Session 6: Business Fireside Chat

Description:

In the business fireside chat Aaron Werley of Zayo joins Tim Doiron to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing network service providers in an era of AI and massive data center expansion. How do network operators stay ahead of growing fiber capacity demands and service evolutions, and what are the technologies, tools and processes needed to do so? How are customer expectations changing and how is Zayo changing to meet and exceed those expectations? We'll cover this and more in the business fireside chat as we wrap up the day.

Moderator:

Tim Doiron, Nokia

Speaker:

Aaron Werley, Zayo

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17:30 – 17:35 Closing Remarks

17:35 – 19:00 Executive Reception

Planning Committee Members:



[Aleksandra Boskovic](#), *Corning Optical Communications, VP, COC Technology Development*

Dr. Aleksandra Boskovic is the Vice President for Optical Communications Technology Development at Corning. In this role, she is responsible for ensuring an integrated technology strategy and delivery across Fiber, Cable and Connectivity. This includes delivering the most valuable components and solutions to Corning’s customers, while capitalizing on competitive advantages in fiber, cable, connectivity, actives, and software. Aleksandra joined Corning in 1997 as a scientist at Corning’s main R&R center in NY. During her early career, she gained considerable technical expertise in the areas of optics, optical networks and systems, and glass processing in general. Throughout her career, Aleksandra has built a strong track record in technology leadership in broad technical areas touching all of Corning’s businesses. Aleksandra holds a Ph.D. and a M.Sc. in Physics from Imperial College, UK, and a M.Sc. and B.S. in Physics from the Pontificia Universidade Católica, Brasil. She also holds an MBA from the Tuck School of Business. Aleksandra is a Fellow of the OPTICA society and a member of the IEEE society.



[Sean Buckley](#), *Broadband Technology Report and Lightwave Magazine, Editor-in-Chief*

Like other journalists that have covered the telecom and IT space, my journey began over 20 years in 1998 ago by a stroke of luck. Other than once watching a film in the third grade on the Bell System’s voice telephone network, my knowledge of telecom was limited to making phone calls and conducting internal e-mails for a leasing company I worked for. After accepting a position at Information Gatekeepers – an independent publishing and analyst firm that once sat above a movie theater in Allston, Mass -- covering optical and local area networking, I was thrust into how to adapt to then emerging internet world. As a way to establish my knowledge of the telecom industry, my boss had me write short summaries of the day’s telecom events—an exercise that soon turned into the first web-based online publication called “Today in Telecom.” After spending over a year establishing knowledge and good contacts, I applied for a staff editor position at Telecommunications Magazine. I then spent the next five years covering a mix of wireline broadband, edge and even emerging wireless technologies like MMDS and WiMAX. During this period, I saw the after effects from a build-it-and-they-will-come strategy that resulted in what many industry observers call the “telecom nuclear winter.” But after nearly 7 years covering the telecom industry as a journalist, I took on the opportunity to be an analyst at Current Analysis. As an analyst covering first the public sector IT and later wireless space, I gained new skills in how to critically look at technology trends. Following a three-year return to

Telecommunications Magazine, one where helped drive the publication's move from print to all online via the Telecom Engine brand, I found my way to FierceTelecom. For the next nearly next nine years, I steered the publication during a time of massive consolidation. I also drove FierceTelecom's coverage of the emerging software-driven and automation trends via SDN and NFV.



Tim Doiron , *Nokia, Vice President, Solution Marketing*

Tim Doiron is Vice President, Solution Marketing at Nokia, where he leads a global team focused on innovative networking solutions that include open optical networking, next-generation mobile transport, and intelligent software automation. Tim brings more than 25 years of networking and telecommunications experience across business and technical organizations, including roles in marketing, product management, and engineering in executive and managerial roles at vendor and service provider companies, including Coriant, Tellabs, ARRIS, Cadant, Ericsson, and AT&T Mobility. Tim was also a Principal Analyst at ACG Research. Tim is a frequent speaker at industry conferences and has authored numerous articles. He holds an MBA from Webster University, an M.S. in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and a B.S. in electrical engineering from Southern Illinois University. He also holds eight patents and is a member of IEEE and Optica (formerly OSA).



Mark Filer , *Stealth Startup, Area Tech Lead*

Mark M. Filer is currently working at a stealth startup as area tech lead in photonics. Before that, Mark worked at Google as Optical Network Architect, focusing on campus, metro DCI, and wide-area network optical solutions and next-gen datacenter network architectures. Prior to Google, Mark spent several years at Microsoft Azure HW and Networking teams in Redmond WA, Amazon Web Services in Seattle WA, and ADVA Optical Networking in Atlanta GA. He has numerous publications and patents in the areas of photonic integration, cloud-scale network architectures, open line systems, long-haul transmission, and DWDM system impairments. Mark has served on the OIF Board of Directors as Vice President. He holds B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in electrical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA.



Lorenzo Ghioni , *Cisco, Director Product Management*

Experienced in telecommunications product management, mainly focused on DWDM (Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing). I have been involved with Long Haul and Extended Long Haul products and have been focused on Metro and Regional applications for the last 15 years. Currently following Product Management activities for DWDM solutions, have been part since the beginning of the core team of people developing DWDM transport functionalities and ROADM

solutions for ONS 15454 MSTP inside Cisco Optical Networking team. Extensive interactions with North American and European Service Providers and Enterprise Carriers. Fluent in English and Italian. I hold multiple patents in the optical transport field.



[Lisa Huff](#), *Omdia, Senior Principal Analyst, Optical Components*

Lisa joined Omdia, formerly Ovum, in March 2018. She brings great industry expertise, with more than 30 years in communications, IT, and electronics industries. Lisa joined us from Discerning Analytics, where she was the owner and principal analyst. In addition, Lisa is a Certified Data Center Management Professional (CDCMP) and a degreed electrical engineer with experience in data centers, LAN, optical components, copper and fiber connectors, and cabling. Lisa has authored more than 50 technical papers and market research reports. She is a successful project manager with proven revenue-generating abilities. She currently holds the prestigious and industry-shaping position of chair of the OFC Market Watch planning subcommittee.



[Michael Lebbly](#), *GenusTechnik Inc., CEO*

Dr. Michael S. Lebbly has deep experience running and leading technology companies, especially those developing, manufacturing and productizing new platform technologies. Dr. Lebbly's experience includes research, development, volume scale, marketing, sales, finance, and corporate activities both with management as well as at a board director level. Dr. Lebbly is globally recognized as an expert witness in technology. With over 60 Federal court depositions that relate to optics, photonics, electronics and semiconductors, Dr. Lebbly has represented many major technology companies in patent litigation that range from optics, lighting, optical communications, automotive lidar, sensing, displays, medical, storage, etc. Dr. Lebbly's technical acumen stems from his entrepreneurial and intrapreneurial skills working throughout his career in both large corporate organizations as well as venture backed start-ups and public companies. Dr. Lebbly was a member of LWLG's Board of Directors from 2015 to 2024 and chair from 2022,. Dr Lebbly led the corporation as CEO in 2017 and successfully navigated LWLG from OTCQ to the NASDAQ through an organic uplisting with the rare situation of no reverse splits or associated public offering in 2021. The new technology electro-optic polymer platform for optical modulators that Dr. Lebbly was driving at LWLG has the potential to change the way the internet operates and performs both from a performance as well as power efficiency perspective and he gave many keynote talks and interviews to put the technology platform on international technology roadmaps. Dr. Lebbly has built world class teams not only to productize new and novel technology platforms from research concepts through development to production, but also in sales, marketing, human relations, legal, and finance. Dr. Lebbly's career started with the British Government in 1977 in telecommunications and he did research at their prestigious research labs (RSRE Malvern) in the early 1980s and worked at AT&T Bell Labs (1985-1989) in photonics. At Motorola in the 1990s he drove the development, including the first patent co-authorship of the oxide VCSEL diode laser which is now used in laser mice, 3D sensing/structured light in mobile phones and short distance datacenter optical interconnects with estimated volumes of over many billion of units today. From

2005-2010 he led the USA trade association in optoelectronics (OIDA) and represented and petitioned on behalf of the optoelectronics industry on Capitol Hill for major multi-national corporations. Dr. Leby has run and led several technological start-ups such as Ignis Optics, One Chip Photonics, Translucent Photonics, Lightwave Logic, as well as groups in Motorola, Tyco Electronics, AT&T, Intel and others. Dr. Leby has nurtured innovative technology through building a range of customers from small business enterprises to multi-national corporations. Dr. Leby was honored in October 2024 as 'Photonics 100' for 2025 by Electro Optics Publication. The award is based on exceptional contributions and achievements in the field of photonics. Dr. Leby was voted PIC (Photonic Integrated Circuit) business leader of the year by the industry-based PIC International Conference in 2018. He is a technical expert to the European Commission, and a Fellow of NAI, IEEE and Optica. He also is Chair (2024-2026) of Optica's Corporate Engagement Counsel, a board of industry representatives to further business activity in the sector as well as a Board member of Optica. Dr. Leby is CEO of GenusTechnik Inc., which assists companies on patent/IP, expert witness, and new leading-edge technologies.



Andrew Lord, *BT Group, Senior Manager, Optics and Quantum Research Centre of Excellence*

Andrew is senior manager of BT's Centre of Excellence in optical and quantum research. He has designed a wide range of optical networks. He was Chair for OFC 2015 and 2017 and Technical Program Chair of ECOC 2023. He is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Optical Communications and Networking, Visiting Professor at Essex University, Fellow of the IEEE and one of the first cohort of BT Fellows, appointed in 2024.



Sanjai Parthasarathi, *Coherent Corp, Chief Marketing Officer*

Sanjai Parthasarathi joined Coherent Corp. in 2013 and has been the Chief Marketing Officer since 2019. Previously, Dr. Parthasarathi was Vice President, Product Marketing and Strategy, Photonics, since 2015. Prior to Coherent, he served as Senior Director, Product Line Management, at Oclaro. Over his 30+ year career he has broad management and technical experience and the opportunity to work in all of the diverse markets that Coherent addresses. Dr. Parthasarathi has held a variety of progressive roles in R&D, manufacturing, product line management, and marketing, including senior business and technical management positions at Avanex Corporation, Oplink Communications, TeraStor, Western Digital, and Concurrent Technologies Corporation. Dr. Parthasarathi graduated from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, with a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering, and holds an M.S. in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. in Engineering Science from the Pennsylvania State University.



[Chris Pfistner](#), *Avicena Tech, VP Sales & Marketing*

Chris Pfistner joined Avicena in September of 2021 as Vice President of Sales & Marketing. Chris has over 25 years of experience in Sales, Marketing, Product Line Management, and Business Development in the global fiber optic module and systems market. Prior to Avicena, Chris held executive positions with Jabil Photonics, Lumentum, Finisar/II-VI, NeoPhotonics, Terawave, Advanced Fibre and Pirelli Optical Systems. Chris holds Ph.D. and MS and BS degrees in Applied Physics from the University of Berne, Switzerland.



[Natarajan "Subu" Subrahmanyam](#), *Verition Fund Management, TMT Portfolio Manager*

Natarajan 'Subu' Subrahmanyam is a TMT Portfolio Manager at Verition Fund Management. Subu has over 15 years of equity research experience in the technology sector and focuses on hardware, semiconductor and security sectors. Prior to joining AO and Verition, Subu spent 12 years at The Juda Group as an equity research analyst covering the communications equipment and network security and before that was lead analyst for networking at Goldman Sachs. Subu has been featured on the Wall Street Journal's Best of the Street

Analyst List, and ranked in the Institutional Investor polls. He holds an MBA from Vanderbilt University and a B.S in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Madras University in India.



[Tom Williams](#), *Acacia, VP of Marketing*

Tom Williams, VP of Technical Marketing, joined Cisco via the Acacia acquisition. He leads marketing efforts for the Acacia coherent optics team that was acquired by Cisco in March 2021. Tom has spent over 20 years developing optical transmission equipment ranging from 10G to 1.2T. He participates in a variety of coherent standardization activities in OIF, IEEE and Open ROADM and is co-chair of the OpenZR+ MSA. Tom spent nearly 15 years in various management roles at Optium, where he participated in the company's 2006 IPO and 2008 acquisition by Finisar. Tom joined Acacia in 2015, where his role

has included corporate and product marketing responsibility, as well as contributing to product roadmap definitions.

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SPEAKER PROFILES



[Aaron Werley](#), *Zayo, SVP Engineering*

Aaron Werley is an experienced technology executive with a robust background in engineering and network management. Currently serving as Senior Vice President of Engineering at Zayo Group since August 2007, Aaron has held several key positions within the organization, including VP Technology for Lit Networks and Chief Technology Officer for Lit Solutions. Prior to joining Zayo Group, Aaron co-owned National Performance Parts Warehouse, an online aftermarket auto parts store, and worked as a Network Engineer at NuNet Inc. and as a Network & Computer Technician at Advanced Technology Solutions. Aaron earned a Master's degree in Computer Science from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the same institution, along with coursework at the Rochester Institute of Technology.



[Adit Narasimha](#), *Astera Labs, VP Emerging Technologies*

Dr. Adit Narasimha is Vice President of Emerging Technologies at Astera Labs (NASDAQ: ALAB), where he oversees strategy and roadmaps, product development, partnerships, customer relations and revenue generation for his group. He is Chairman of the Board at Polaris Electro Optics - a company pioneering ferroelectric liquid crystals for energy efficient, high speed optical communication. Prior to Astera, he was Vice President and General Manager of Molex's Optoelectronics business. He started this business at Molex and led it through a period of extraordinary market growth into hyperscale, wireless and long-haul markets. Before that, he was Chief Operating Officer at Abtum, a company he co-founded to develop high performance RF front ends for mobile handsets and small cells. Abtum was acquired by Qorvo in 2018. Adit started his career at Luxtera (now a Cisco company), where he held multiple leadership roles in IC design, systems engineering, product integration, manufacturing operations and applications. He was co-recipient of the 2006 IEEE Lewis Winner best paper award at ISSCC. He has a Bachelor's in EE from BITS Pilani, India and an MS and PhD in EE from UCLA. When he is not working, he enjoys hiking with his kids, flying airplanes, sailing small boats or playing classical piano.



Amin Vahdat, *Google, VP and GM, Machine Learning, Systems, and Cloud AI*

Amin Vahdat is a Fellow and vice president of Engineering at Google, where his team is responsible for delivering industry-leading Machine Learning software and hardware that serves Alphabet, Google and the world, and Artificial Intelligence technologies that empower ML developers and solve customers' most pressing business challenges. In the past, he was General Manager for Google's compute, storage, and network hardware and software infrastructure. Until 2019, he was the Technical Lead for the Networking organization at Google. Before joining Google, Amin was the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at UC San Diego (UCSD) He received his doctorate from the University of California Berkeley in computer science, and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) and an Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Fellow. Amin has been recognized with a number of awards, including the National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER award, the UC Berkeley Distinguished EECS Alumni Award, the Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship, the Association for Computing Machinery's SIGCOMM Networking Systems Award, and the Duke University David and Janet Vaughn Teaching Award. Most recently, Amin was awarded the SIGCOMM lifetime achievement award for his contributions to data center and wide area networks. Lastly, he was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering in September 2023 for his contributions to the design and implementation of datacenter and planet-scale networks that power cloud computer systems.



Andreas Bechtolsheim, *Arista, Chairman, Chief Development Officer and Co-Founder*

Andreas "Andy" Bechtolsheim is Chairman, Chief Development Officer and Co-Founder of Arista Networks. Previously, Andy was a Co-Founder and Chief System Architect at Sun Microsystems, responsible for next generation server, storage, and network architectures. Andy received a M.S. in Computer Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in 1976 and was a doctoral student in Computer Engineering at Stanford University from 1977 to 1982. He has been honored with a Fulbright scholarship, the Stanford Entrepreneur Company of the year award, the Smithsonian Leadership Award for Innovation, the EY 2015 US Entrepreneur of the Year Award (together with Jayshree Ullal) and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.



Ashkan Seyedi, *NVIDIA, Director, LinkX Products*

Ashkan Seyedi received a dual bachelor's in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a PhD from the University of Southern California, working on photonic crystal devices, high-speed nanowire photodetectors, efficient white LEDs and solar cells. With a decade of industry experience at Intel, Hewlett Packard Enterprise and Nvidia, Dr. Seyedi has been working on developing high-bandwidth, efficient optical interconnects for exascale and high-performance computing applications.



Colin Wallace, *Microsoft, General Manager of Cloud Network Engineering, Azure Fiber*

Colin Wallace, based in United Kingdom, is currently a General Manager of Cloud Network Engineering, Azure Fiber at Microsoft. Colin Wallace brings experience from previous roles at Infinera and Ciena. Colin Wallace holds a 1992 - 1996 PhD in Semiconductor laser amplifier applications in spread spectrum systems @ University of Strathclyde.



Drew Alduino, *Meta Platforms, Optical Engineer*

Drew Alduino is an optical engineer at Meta Platforms where his work is focused on integrated optics for Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning applications. Previously at Intel, he was an early member of the team which developed SiPh and the integrated Silicon hybrid-laser and helped lead the team which demonstrated the first CWDM SiPh integrated optical link in 2010. His interests remain focused on the development and integration of low power, high-bandwidth optics with XPU's to enable future AI/ML and compute systems. He received his PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of New Mexico in 1999 with a focus on opto-electronics. He has co-authored over a dozen papers and has been awarded 11 patents.



Gary Smith, *Ciena, President & CEO*

Gary B. Smith, President and CEO of Ciena since 2001, is one of the longest serving public company chief executives in the technology sector. At Ciena, he has delivered a strong track record of business performance by building a people-first culture that is focused on developing market-leading innovation. He has led the company's transformation from a niche optical technology provider to a global leader in network solutions. Prior to Ciena, he was responsible for the privatization of Intelsat, and held global roles in pioneering European companies, including Cray Communications and Case Communications Group. Smith served on the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC) from 2011 to 2023. He also served as lead outside Director and Chair of the Governance and Nominations Committee of Commvault, and was the first independent appointed director for Avaya. Smith is a citizen of both the U.S. and UK. He earned an MBA from Ashridge Management College in the UK. Smith is also an award-winning photographer and a lifelong member of the Royal Photographic Society. He published his first book, PATHWAYS, in 2023.



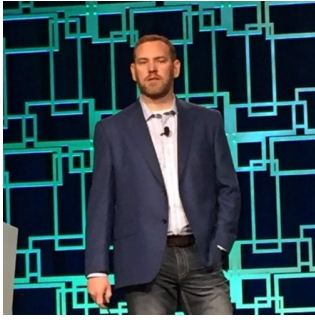
Helen Xenos, *Ciena, Sr. Director, Optical Solutions Marketing*

Helen Xenos is Senior Director of Portfolio Marketing at Ciena. She is responsible for introducing Ciena's converged packet optical solutions and technologies to market, including Ciena's industry leading WaveLogic high-capacity coherent optical solutions. She is a frequent blogger and speaker, and enjoys rendering technical speak into the exciting implications it means for network providers. Across her 20+ yr career in the telecommunications industry, Ms. Xenos' roles include product management, systems engineering and test engineering.



Hong Hou, *President, CEO & Board Member, Semtech Corporation*

Hong is an accomplished multinational technology executive - recognized as a global enterprise leader - winning with complex products in dynamic ultra-competitive markets. Transformational, inspiring, trustworthy and resilient. Proven track record in product and business development as well as operations management to maximize shareholder value. A thought leader who excels in rallying an organization behind a strategic vision and the execution required for profitable market share growth.



James Feger, *Lumen, SVP Product Segments*

James Feger, based in Castle Rock, CO, US, is currently a Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer at Speedcast. James Feger brings experience from previous roles at Lumen Technologies. James Feger holds a Bachelor Of Science in Cybersecurity @ Colorado State University. With a robust skill set that includes MPLS, Network Design, VoIP, Wireless, IP and more.



James Zhang, *Eoptolink, VP Commerce and Director of Business Development*

James ZHANG, VP Commerce, Director of Business Development at Eoptolink. Accomplished professional with a Master's degree from the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China. Began his career at Huawei, where he held key roles, driving sales and marketing promotion for products and solutions across diverse markets. Since joining Eoptolink in 2017, he has been responsible for the company's marketing and business development while overseeing the Commerce Department. He possesses a deep understanding of optical transceiver technologies and their evolution, as well as their applications in cutting-edge fields such as AI clusters, cloud data centers, and 5G networks. His thought leadership has led to frequent invitations to speak at industry forums and summits.



Jim Anderson, *Coherent, CEO*

Jim Anderson was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Coherent Corp. and a member of the Board of Directors on June 3, 2024. He previously served as a director and as President and Chief Executive Officer of Lattice Semiconductor Corporation since September 2018. Prior to joining Lattice, Mr. Anderson served as the Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Computing and Graphics Business Group at Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (AMD). Prior to AMD, Mr. Anderson held a broad range of leadership positions spanning general management, engineering, sales, marketing, and corporate strategy at companies including Intel, Broadcom (formerly Avago Technologies), and LSI Corporation. Mr. Anderson served on the Board of Directors of Entegris, Inc., from March 2023 to July 2024 and on the Board of Directors of the Semiconductor Industry Association through June 2024. He previously served on the Board of Directors of Sierra Wireless from April 2020 to January 2023. Mr. Anderson earned an MBA and Master of Science degree in electrical engineering and computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Master of Science degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University, and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota.



[Julie Eng](#), *Coherent, CTO*

Julie Sheridan Eng was named Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Coherent in 2022. Prior to becoming CTO, Dr. Eng served as Senior Vice President and General Manager of Coherent/II-VI's Optoelectronic Devices and Modules Business Unit. Prior to joining II-VI through the II-VI acquisition of Finisar, Dr. Eng worked at Finisar, serving most recently as Executive Vice President and General Manager of Finisar's 3D Sensing Business Unit, and prior to that, as Executive Vice President of Datacom Engineering. Prior to joining Finisar, Dr. Eng was part of AT&T/Lucent/Agere, where she managed datacom transceivers. Dr. Eng is a Past Chair of the IEEE Committee on Women in Engineering and presently serves on the Board of Directors of Optica (formerly the Optical Society of America). She holds a B.A. degree in Physics from Bryn Mawr College and a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). She earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University. In 2022, she was elected Fellow of Optica for distinguished contributions to the advancement of optics and photonics.



[Loi Nguyen](#), *Marvell, Executive VP & GM, Optical BU*

Dr. Loi Nguyen is Executive Vice President and General Manager of Marvell's Optical and Copper Connectivity. Prior to Marvell, Loi was the Co-Founder of Inphi, where he served as Senior Vice President and General Manager of Optical Interconnects. Prior to Inphi, Loi held engineering roles at the Honeywell Physical Sciences Center in Bloomington, Minnesota, among others. Loi holds seven U.S. patents and is an author of more than 50 scientific publications. He has served on technical committees of the IEEE International Electron Devices Meetings, the IEEE Device Research Conference and the IEEE International Solid-State Devices Meetings. Loi holds B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from Cornell University and MBA from the Anderson School of Management at UCLA. His major contribution to science and technology includes the development of ultra high speed semiconductor devices that enable today broadband optical and millimeter wave communications and networking, automotive radar, and radio astronomy. Outside of work, Loi is an accomplished wildlife photographer with a passion for wildlife conservation. His images have been featured by leading nature and wildlife organizations such as Nature's Best, North American Nature Photographer Association (NANPA), National Wildlife Federation, Defenders of Wildlife, National Audubon, among others.



Manish Mehta, *Broadcom, VP of Marketing and Operations, Optical Systems Division*

Manish Mehta, based in San Jose, CA, US, is currently a VP of Marketing and Operations, Optical Systems Division at Broadcom Inc.. Manish Mehta brings experience from previous roles at Broadcom Inc. and Source Photonics. Manish Mehta holds a 2001 - 2005 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Electrical and Electronics Engineering @ University of California, Santa Barbara. With a robust skill set that includes Product Marketing, Telecom, Fiber Optics, Optics, DWDM and more.



Michael Hurlston, *Lumentum, President and Chief Executive Officer*

Michael Hurlston joined Lumentum as President and CEO in 2025. Hurlston is a proven technology executive with over 30 years of senior leadership experience within the technology industry. Prior to joining Lumentum, Hurlston served as President and Chief Executive Officer at Synaptics, Inc., a worldwide pioneer and leader in human interface hardware and software. Prior to Synaptics, Hurlston served as the Chief Executive Officer of Finisar Corporation, where he oversaw the company's agreement to be acquired by II-VI. Before joining Finisar, he served in a variety of senior leadership positions at Broadcom Limited and its predecessor corporation across the sales, marketing, and general management functions, including serving as its Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Mobile Connectivity Products/Wireless Communications and Connectivity Division. Hurlston has served as a member of the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee of Flex Ltd. since September 2020. He also sits on the Board and is a member of the Compensation Committee for Astera Labs, Inc. In addition, Hurlston is a member of the Board of Executive Trustees of the UC Davis Foundation, the Dean's Executive Committee for the College of Engineering, and the Dean's Advisory Counsel for the Graduate School of Management at the University of California, Davis. Hurlston holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Electrical Engineering and a Master of Business Administration from the University of California, Davis.



Pradeep Sindhu, *Microsoft, Corporate VP, Silicon*

Pradeep Sindhu is the Founder, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Technology Officer at Juniper Networks Inc. Pradeep founded Juniper Networks in February 1996 and has held several central roles in shaping the company. Pradeep currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Technology Officer. Pradeep is responsible for the company's technical roadmap as well as day-to-day design and development of future products. Pradeep served as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer for eight months when he founded the company.

During that time, he played a central role in the architecture, design, and development of the M40 router. Before founding Juniper Networks, Pradeep was a Principal Scientist and Distinguished Engineer at the Computer Science Lab at Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), where he worked on design tools for VLSI and high-speed interconnects for shared-memory multiprocessors. His key roles in the architecture, design and development of these machines led to the commercial development of Sun Microsystems' first high-performance multiprocessor system family, which included the SS1000 and SS2000. Pradeep holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur, as well as a Master's degree in the same discipline from the University of Hawaii. In addition, Pradeep holds both a Master's and a Ph.D. degree in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University.



Rang-Chen (Ryan) Yu, *TeraHop, VP Marketing*

Dr. Rang-Chen Yu is currently Vice President of Marketing for TeraHop, a global leader for providing optical connectivity solutions for AI/data center applications. Prior to join InnoLight, he was Sr. VP for SiFotonics, an industry pioneer in development and commercialization of silicon photonics technologies. He served as Vice President and General Manager for Oplink Communications (acquired by Molex), developed silicon photonics for high volume data center applications. He had also served executive and senior management positions for several photonics technology companies such as Source Photonics,

Agility Communications (acquired by JDSU) and SDL (acquired by JDSU). Dr. Yu earned his Ph D. in Solid State Physics at U. Penn, and B. S. in Physics at Peking University.



Ryan Latchman, *MACOM, VP High Performance Connectivity Product Marketing*

Ryan Latchman is VP High Performance Connectivity Product Marketing at MACOM, focusing on physical layer components used in Datacom and Telecom applications. Before his current role, Ryan held the position of VP Strategic Marketing & Applications Engineering at Mindspeed Technologies, a company that was acquired by MACOM in 2013. With over 25 years of experience, he has engaged in various engineering and management positions covering both copper and optical connectivity. Ryan holds an MEng from the University of

Toronto and an MBA from the Rotman School of Management. Ryan has also contributed to industry standardization efforts in the OIF, IEEE as an Editor, and LPO-MSA as Marketing Chair.



Tom Williams, *Acacia, VP of Marketing*

Tom Williams, VP of Technical Marketing, joined Cisco via the Acacia acquisition. He leads marketing efforts for the Acacia coherent optics team that was acquired by Cisco in March 2021. Tom has spent over 20 years developing optical transmission equipment ranging from 10G to 1.2T. He participates in a variety of coherent standardization activities in OIF, IEEE and Open ROADM and is co-chair of the OpenZR+ MSA. Tom spent nearly 15 years in various management roles at Optium, where he participated in the company's 2006 IPO and 2008 acquisition by Finisar. Tom joined Acacia in 2015, where his role

has included corporate and product marketing responsibility, as well as contributing to product roadmap definitions.



Walid Wakim, *Nokia, CTO*

Walid Wakim is Chief Technology Officer at Infinera in the Systems group. Walid's 25+ years of industry experience has spanned hardware to software to system engineering to defining both optical and multi-layer network architectures. In his current role, Walid heads the office of the CTO, focusing on future system and network architectures. He actively collaborates with network operators and vendors all around the world to create next-generation networking solutions and is actively involved with standards and open source forums. Walid also is a regular speaker at industry conferences, holds a number of patents,

and has authored a number of papers in the International Engineering Consortium, IEEE, and OFC as well as for other major journals and industry conferences.



Aleksandra Boskovic, *Corning Optical Communications, VP, COC Technology Development*

Dr. Aleksandra Boskovic is the Vice President for Optical Communications Technology Development at Corning. In this role, she is responsible for ensuring an integrated technology strategy and delivery across Fiber, Cable and Connectivity. This includes delivering the most valuable components and solutions to Corning's customers, while capitalizing on competitive advantages in fiber, cable, connectivity, actives, and software. Aleksandra joined Corning in 1997 as a scientist at Corning's main R&R center in NY. During her early career, she gained considerable technical expertise in the areas of optics, optical networks and systems, and glass processing in general. Throughout her career, Aleksandra has built a strong track record in technology leadership in broad technical areas touching all of Corning's businesses. Aleksandra holds a Ph.D. and a M.Sc. in Physics from Imperial College, UK, and a M.Sc. and B.S. in Physics from the Pontificia Universidade Católica, Brasil. She also holds an MBA from the Tuck School of Business. Aleksandra is a Fellow of the OPTICA society and a member of the IEEE society.



Christoph Pfistner, *Avicena Tech, VP Sales & Marketing*

Chris Pfistner joined Avicena in September of 2021 as Vice President of Sales & Marketing. Chris has over 25 years of experience in Sales, Marketing, Product Line Management, and Business Development in the global fiber optic module and systems market. Prior to Avicena, Chris held executive positions with Jabil Photonics, Lumentum, Finisar/II-VI, NeoPhotonics, Terawave, Advanced Fibre and Pirelli Optical Systems. Chris holds Ph.D. and MS and BS degrees in Applied Physics from the University of Berne, Switzerland.



Jose Pozo, *Optica, Chief Technology Officer*

Originally from Spain, Jose Pozo has spent more than 25 years working in photonics. He earned a PhD in quantum physics from the University of Bristol, UK, and an M.Sc. and B.Eng. in telecom engineering from UPNA, Spain / VUB, Belgium. Prior to joining EPIC in 2015 as CTO, Jose was a Senior Photonics Technology Consultant with PNO Consultants, with some of the main accounts such as CERN, Thales or TE Connectivity. He has worked at TNO, The Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research, and as a post-doctoral researcher at the Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands, where he contributed to the early development of EFFECT Photonics.



[Lisa Huff](#), *Omdia, Senior Principal Analyst, Optical Components*

Lisa joined Omdia, formerly Ovum, in March 2018. She brings great industry expertise, with more than 30 years in communications, IT, and electronics industries. Lisa joined us from Discerning Analytics, where she was the owner and principal analyst. In addition, Lisa is a Certified Data Center Management Professional (CDCMP) and a degreed electrical engineer with experience in data centers, LAN, optical components, copper and fiber connectors, and cabling. Lisa has authored more than 50 technical papers and market research reports. She is a successful project manager with proven revenue-generating abilities. She currently holds the prestigious and industry-shaping position of chair of the OFC Market Watch planning subcommittee.



[Mark Filer](#), *Stealth Startup, Area Tech Lead*

Mark M. Filer is currently working at a stealth startup as area tech lead in photonics. Before that, Mark worked at Google as Optical Network Architect, focusing on campus, metro DCI, and wide-area network optical solutions and next-gen datacenter network architectures. Prior to Google, Mark spent several years at Microsoft Azure HW and Networking teams in Redmond WA, Amazon Web Services in Seattle WA, and ADVA Optical Networking in Atlanta GA. He has numerous publications and patents in the areas of photonic integration, cloud-scale network architectures, open line systems, long-haul transmission, and DWDM system impairments. Mark has served on the OIF Board of Directors as Vice President. He holds B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in electrical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA.



Michael Lebby, *GenusTechnik Inc., CEO*

Dr. Michael S. Lebby has deep experience running and leading technology companies, especially those developing, manufacturing and productizing new platform technologies. Dr. Lebby's experience includes research, development, volume scale, marketing, sales, finance, and corporate activities both with management as well as at a board director level. Dr. Lebby is globally recognized as an expert witness in technology. With over 60 Federal court depositions that relate to optics, photonics, electronics and semiconductors, Dr. Lebby has represented many major technology companies in patent litigation that range from optics, lighting, optical communications, automotive lidar, sensing, displays, medical, storage, etc. Dr. Lebby's technical acumen stems from his entrepreneurial and intrapreneurial skills working throughout his career in both large corporate organizations as well as venture backed start-ups and public companies. Dr. Lebby was a member of LWLG's Board of Directors from 2015 to 2024 and chair from 2022,. Dr Lebby led the corporation as CEO in 2017 and successfully navigated LWLG from OTCQ to the NASDAQ through an organic uplisting with the rare situation of no reverse splits or associated public offering in 2021. The new technology electro-optic polymer platform for optical modulators that Dr. Lebby was driving at LWLG has the potential to change the way the internet operates and performs both from a performance as well as power efficiency perspective and he gave many keynote talks and interviews to put the technology platform on international technology roadmaps. Dr. Lebby has built world class teams not only to productize new and novel technology platforms from research concepts through development to production, but also in sales, marketing, human relations, legal, and finance. Dr. Lebby's career started with the British Government in 1977 in telecommunications and he did research at their prestigious research labs (RSRE Malvern) in the early 1980s and worked at AT&T Bell Labs (1985-1989) in photonics. At Motorola in the 1990s he drove the development, including the first patent co-authorship of the oxide VCSEL diode laser which is now used in laser mice, 3D sensing/structured light in mobile phones and short distance datacenter optical interconnects with estimated volumes of over many billion of units today. From 2005-2010 he led the USA trade association in optoelectronics (OIDA) and represented and petitioned on behalf of the optoelectronics industry on Capitol Hill for major multi-national corporations. Dr. Lebby has run and led several technological start-ups such as Ignis Optics, One Chip Photonics, Translucent Photonics, Lightwave Logic, as well as groups in Motorola, Tyco Electronics, AT&T, Intel and others. Dr. Lebby has nurtured innovative technology through building a range of customers from small business enterprises to multi-national corporations. Dr. Lebby was honored in October 2024 as 'Photonics 100' for 2025 by Electro Optics Publication. The award is based on exceptional contributions and achievements in the field of photonics. Dr. Lebby was voted PIC (Photonic Integrated Circuit) business leader of the year by the industry-based PIC International Conference in 2018. He is a technical expert to the European Commission, and a Fellow of NAI, IEEE and Optica. He also is Chair (2024-2026) of Optica's Corporate Engagement Counsel, a board of industry representatives to further business activity in the sector as well as a Board member of Optica. Dr. Lebby is CEO of GenusTechnik Inc., which assists companies on patent/IP, expert witness, and new leading-edge technologies.



Natarajan "Subu" Subrahmanyam, *Verition Fund Management, TMT Portfolio Manager*

Natarajan 'Subu' Subrahmanyam is a TMT Portfolio Manager at Verition Fund Management. Subu has over 15 years of equity research experience in the technology sector and focuses on hardware, semiconductor and security sectors. Prior to joining AO and Verition, Subu spent 12 years at The Junda Group as an equity research analyst covering the communications equipment and network security and before that was lead analyst for networking at Goldman Sachs. Subu has been featured on the Wall Street Journal's Best of the Street

Analyst List, and ranked in the Institutional Investor polls. He holds an MBA from Vanderbilt University and a B.S in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Madras University in India.



Tim Doiron, *Nokia, Vice President, Solution Marketing*

Tim Doiron is Vice President, Solution Marketing at Nokia, where he leads a global team focused on innovative networking solutions that include open optical networking, next-generation mobile transport, and intelligent software automation. Tim brings more than 25 years of networking and telecommunications experience across business and technical organizations, including roles in marketing, product management, and engineering in executive and managerial roles at vendor and service provider companies, including Coriant, Tellabs, ARRIS, Cadant, Ericsson, and AT&T Mobility. Tim was also a Principal

Analyst at ACG Research. Tim is a frequent speaker at industry conferences and has authored numerous articles. He holds an MBA from Webster University, an M.S. in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and a B.S. in electrical engineering from Southern Illinois University. He also holds eight patents and is a member of IEEE and Optica (formerly OSA).